FEDERAL FUNDING AWARDED TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2011

Contact: Joanne Zahora

303-866-3144

DENVER – August 10, 2011 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that \$608,370 – made available through a federal grant – was awarded to 14 statewide community organizations to educate families about public health insurance, to inform and aid children and families in their communities with health coverage options, and to assist current clients with re-enrollment.

The Department received a five-year \$42 million State Health Access Policy (SHAP) grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in September 2009, funding several initiatives that will lead to greater access to health care, increase positive health outcomes and reduce cost-shifting. The Maximizing Outreach, Retention and Enrollment (MORE) project identified in Colorado's SHAP grant provided funding for the community grants, also known as MORE grants.

"Coloradans who have lost their health insurance for the first time in their lives due to the economy are not aware of the options available to them," states Sue Birch, executive director. "Our community partners know their neighborhoods and are a "trusted hand." This funding gives them the ability to assist people in their communities in the way they know best."

The awardees:

Roaring Fork School District RE-1/ Roaring Fork Family Resource Centers	\$ 46,200.00
Health Services District of Northern Larimer County	\$ 50,000.00
Peak Vista Community Health Centers	\$ 47,869.00
San Juan Basin Health Department	\$ 48,663.20
Colorado Nonprofit Development Center	\$ 49,993.72
Colorado Alliance for Health Equity and Practice	\$ 41,877.91
Plains Medical Center, Inc.	\$ 33,817.07
Denver Children's Advocacy Center	\$ 50,000.00
Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association	\$ 49,954.96
Telluride Foundation	\$ 41,125.00
Young Men's Christian Association of the Pikes Peak Region	\$ 45,978.60
Boulder County Housing & Human Services	\$ 49,357.00
Fremont County Department of Human Services	\$ 19,974.48
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless	\$ 33,559.98

<u>Medicaid</u> is public health insurance for low-income families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. Eligibility is based on income and family size. The program is funded jointly by a federal-state partnership and is administered by the Department.

Child Health Plan *Plus*, or <u>CHP+</u>, is low-cost health and dental insurance for Colorado children and pregnant women. It's for families that make too much money to be eligible for Medicaid but not enough to afford private insurance.

About the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* programs as well as a variety of other programs for low-income families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.

###